

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-11 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ORM-02 /078 W

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R 120840Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3491

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MOGADISCIO 0054

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, SO

SUBJECT: SIAD AND MOHAMMED EGAL

REF: MOGADISCIO 1471

1. FORMER PRIME MINISTER MOHAMMED EGAL WAS GIVEN HIS FREEDOM IN OCTOBER 1975 FOLLOWING SIX YEARS IMPRISONMENT AT HANDS OF SRC AND PRESIDENT SIAD. EGAL IS STILL AT LIBERTY AT HIS RESIDENCE IN MOGADISCIO, WHICH IS UNDER CONTINUING SURVEILLANCE BY NSS, YET MANAGES TO SEE CONTINUING STREAM OF VISITORS AND WELL-WISHERS WHILE HE CONSIDERS HIS OPTIONS FOR FUTURE. HE IS STILL A FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH IN SOMALIA, JUDGING BY INTEREST WITH WHICH HIS FUTURE IS DISCUSSED AND DEBATED LOCALLY. ONE OF HIS MORE FREQUENT VISITORS IS SAID TO BE PRESIDENT SIAD HIMSELF.

2. ACCORDING INFORMATION PASSED TO US FROM ONE OF EGAL'S CLOSEST FRIENDS AND FELLOW CLANSMEN, SIAD HAS BEEN FREQUENT VISITOR AT EGAL RESIDENCE OVER PAST SEVERAL MONTHS. EGAL HAS ALSO ACCOMPANIED SIAD ON JAUNTS AROUND COUNTRYSIDE -- INCLUDING OUTINGS BY CAR TO AFGOI, TOUR OF DROUGHT RESETTLEMENT CAMP AT KUTUMWARAY, OCCASIONAL  
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LUNCHES NEAR MERCA AND HELICOPTER TRIP TO INSPECT NEW AIRFIELD AT UANLE UEN. OTHER SOMALI OBSERVERS HAVE

CONFIRMED EGAL'S TRIPS WITH SIAD TO AFGOI AND HIS APPEARANCE WITH SIAD DURING VISIT OF RESETTLEMENT SITES.

3. WE UNDERSTAND THAT PURPOSE OF SIAD'S PRIVATE TALKS WITH EGAL HAS BEEN TO ATTEMPT TO PERSUADE EGAL TO TAKE POSITION IN SIAD GOVT. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT CONTRARY TO LOCAL DIPLOMATIC RUMORS, SIAD HAS NOT RPT NOT YET BEEN SPECIFIC IN HIS EMPLOYMENT OFFERS (FYI: LOCAL DIPLOMATIC OBSERVERS BELIEVED EARLIER SIAD OFFERED EGAL AMBASSADORIAL ASSIGNMENT, PERHAPS TO ROME BUT WE WERE SKEPTICAL THAT OFFER HAD BEEN MADE. END FYI) WE ASSUME THAT EGAL'S SIGHTSEEING VISITS WITH SIAD ARE PART OF LATTER'S PROSELYTIZING EFFORTS AS HE SHOWS THE FORMER PRIME MINISTER THE CHANGES IN LOCAL LANDSCAPE WROUGHT BY SIX YEARS OF SOCIALIST PROGRESS.

4. EGAL REPORTEDLY HAS REMAINED NON-COMMITTAL. WE INFORMED HOWEVER THAT EGAL RECENTLY TOLD SIAD THAT HE COULD FORGIVE SIX YEARS IMPRISONMENT, AS WELL AS OFFICIAL CALUMNIES WHICH APPEARED IN LOCAL MEDIA BUT HE COULD NOT RPT NOT FORGIVE SIAD'S CONFISCATION OF HIS MANY PROPERTIES. EGAL TOLD SIAD THAT HE DID NOT RPT NOT EXPECT THOSE FORMER RESIDENCE TO BE RETURNED SINCE HE UNDERSTOOD THAT MANY HAD SINCE BECOME GSDR LANDMARKS, LIKE VILLA BAIDOA, WHICH HOUSED HAILE SELASSIE DURING 1974 OAU SUMMIT. HOWEVER, UNLESS SIAD COMPENSATED EGAL IN SOME MEASURE FOR THAT CONFISCATION, THEN HE COULD TAKE NO RPT NO PART IN SIAD GOVT. EGAL ALSO SUGGESTED THAT COMPENSATION COULD BE PRIVATE MATTER BETWEEN TWO MEN, WITH SIAD PAYING EGAL THROUGH FOREIGN BANK. SIAD REPORTEDLY TOLD EGAL THAT HE WOULD CONSIDER HIS REQUEST.

5. EGAL'S PROPOSAL FOR FINANCIAL COMPENSATION THROUGH PRIVATE CHANNEL IS NOT RPT NOT AS AUDACIOUS AS IT MIGHT APPEAR. WE INFORMED THAT SIAD HAS PRIVATELY RETURNED PROPERTIES OF SOME OF FORMER POLITICAL PRISONERS, PARTICULARLY THOSE FORMERLY CLOSE TO HIM, AND THAT EGAL AWARE OF THESE DISPENSATIONS. ALSO, MANY BELIEVE THAT SRC MEMBERS AND SIAD HIMSELF HAVE BOUGHT UP PRIVATE  
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PROPERTIES IN MOGADISCIO AND ELSEWHERE THROUGH INTERMEDIARIES--  
THUS FURTHER DELAYING URBAN NATIONALIZATIONS. SIAD'S WIFE IS ALSO REPORTED TO HAVE PURCHASED CROCE DEL SUD THROUGH DAROD/MAREHAN MIDDLEMAN. WHETHER ALLEGATIONS ARE IN FACT TRUE, THIS IS NEVERTHELESS POPULAR BELIEF AND EGAL WAS TRADING IN SAME MERCHANDISE WHEN HE MADE PROPOSAL. HIS REQUEST OF SIAD MOREOVER WAS NOT SO MUCH FOR HIS OWN FINANCIAL COMFORT BUT FOR FUTURE SECURITY OF HIS FAMILY.

6. DURING CONVERSATIONAL BANTER BETWEEN TWO MEN, WE

UNDERSTAND ALSO THAT SIAD HAS TOLD EGAL THAT HE KNEW HE WAS STILL SEEKING OVERTHROW SIAD, EVEN WHILE IN PRISON AT AFGOI. EGAL DENIED IT, TELLING SIAD THAT THERE WERE THOSE AMONG DETAINEES WHO CONTINUED SEEK HIS OVERTHROW BUT EGAL WAS NOT RPT NOT AMONG THEM. HE IMPLIED THAT REAL CONSPIRATOR WAS YASSIN NUR HASSAN, EX-MIN INTERIOR.

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INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MOGADISCIO 0054

7. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT ON BASIS OF HIS CONVERSATIONS AND HIS CLOSE OBSERVATIONS OF SIAD, EGAL HAS CONCLUDED THAT SIAD IS DESPERATE MAN AT PRESENT AND IT IS MEASURE OF HIS DESPERATION THAT HE SEEKS EGAL'S PARTICIPATION IN REGIME. EGAL SENSES THAT SIAD HAS SOME DIFFICULTIES WITH SOVIETS AT PRESENT. FROM SIAD'S COMMENTS, EGAL HAS ALSO CONCLUDED THAT SIAD IS CHAFING UNDER SOVIET DOMINATION, THAT HE HAS GROWN TO ACTIVELY DISLIKE RUSSIANS BUT IS TOTALLY HELPLESS TO BRING ABOUT CHANGES. EGAL CONCLUDES THAT ONE REASON HE DESIRES HIS RETURN TO PUBLIC LIFE -- WHICH EGAL ALSO BELIEVES IS VIGOROUSLY OPPOSED BY SOVIET ADVISORS -- IS THAT EGAL'S PRESENCE WOULD ATTRACT GREATER WESTERN CONFIDENCE IN HIS REGIME AND PERHAPS MORE ACTIVE ECONOMIC SUPPORT, WHICH WOULD MARK BEGINNING OF REDUCTION IN SOVIET DEPENDENCY.

8. EGAL ALSO BELIEVES THAT IF SIAD MAKES EFFORT TO

COMPENSATE HIM FOR HIS LOST PROPERTIES, HE HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO JOIN SIAD GOVT. HE WOULD PREFER TO SERVE ABROAD AND BELIEVES THAT THERE HE COULD SWIFTLY ORGANIZE OPPOSITION TO PRESENT REGIME AND BRING ABOUT SIAD'S DOWNFALL WITHIN FOUR MONTHS. EGAL HAS CONCLUDED THAT WHILE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC UNREST WIDESPREAD AND OPPOSITION CONFIDENTIAL

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TO SIAD COMMON THROUGHOUT SOMALIA, OPPONENTS ARE NOT RPT NOT ORGANIZED IN ANY WAY. HE BELIEVES HE COULD MAKE EFFECTIVE USE OF SOMALI REFUGEE COMMUNITIES IN SAUDI ARABIA, IN GULF AND TFAI FOR HIS PURPOSES. (FYI: SOMALI REFUGEES AND BUSINESSMEN IN SAUDI ARABIA ARE DOMINATED BY EGAL'S FELLOW ISHAAK TRIBESMEN. END FYI)

9. EGAL HAS ALSO REPORTEDLY SAID THAT WHILE OUTSIDE FINANCIAL AND MATERIAL SUPPORT FOR OPPOSITION TO SIAD MIGHT BE HELPFUL, IT IS IN NO SENSE ESSENTIAL AND MOST HE WOULD REQUIRE FROM LARGER STATES IN AREA -- AND WE ASSUME HE IS TALKING ABOUT ARAB STATES -- IS MORAL SUPPORT.

10. WHETHER ABOVE INFORMATION IS ACCURATE IN ALL ITS DETAILS IS DIFFICULT TO SAY. BUT WE ARE PERSUADED THAT IT DOES REPRESENT INFORMATION MOHAMMED EGAL WANTED TO PUT BEFORE AMERICAN EMBASSY, ALTHOUGH WE ARE NOT RPT NOT SURE WE FULLY UNDERSTAND HIS REASONS FOR DOING SO. PERHAPS HE WISHED ANTICIPATE QUESTIONS WHICH MIGHT BE ASKED SHOULD IT SUDDENLY BE ANNOUNCED THAT HE HAS TAKEN POST WITH SIAD REGIME. LOUGHRAN

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